

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

1 – 97. (Cancelled).

98. (Currently amended) A method for assaying cell movement comprising:

- a) providing:
 - i) a multiwell plate comprising ~~masks for wells in said multiwell plate, wherein said wells have~~ having a bottom surface and said masks provide a masked portion and unmasked portion in said wells;
 - ii) ~~an cell seeding device~~ insert configured for use with said multiwell plate, said insert comprising a surface that contacts the bottom surface of said well and has an opening therein that exposes said bottom surface of said well to constrain cells to a discrete location within said well when said insert is inserted into said well; and
 - iii) cells
- b) inserting said ~~cell seeding device~~ insert into at least one well of said multiwell plate, wherein said ~~cell seeding device~~ insert contacts said bottom surface of said well to define a said discrete location ~~predetermined area~~ on said bottom surface of said at least one well;
- c) contacting seeding said cells in said at least one well in said multiwell plate ~~with said cells~~;
- d) incubating said cells with said insert in said at least one well; allowing the cells to attach in the presence of the cell seeding device, so that said cells are seeded in said predetermined area on said bottom surface of said at least one well and excluded from the remainder of said bottom surface of said at least one well due to the presence of the cell seeding device;
- e) removing said ~~cell seeding device~~ insert, wherein said seeded cells are confined to said discrete location defined by said insert;
- f) culturing said cells;

g) assaying said cells for movement from said discrete location
~~predetermined area, wherein said cells are assayed in said unmasked~~
~~portion in said wells.~~

99. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 98, wherein said assaying is selected from the group consisting of colorimetric, fluorimetric, optical density, liquid crystal and light scattering assays.

100. (Previously presented) The method of claim 99, wherein said assays are read by a plate reader.

101. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 98, wherein said multiwell plate is selected from the group consisting of 6, 12, 24, 36, 96, 384, or 1536 well plates.

102. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 98, wherein said at least one well is configured to orient mesogens.

103. (Previously amended) The method of Claim 98, further comprising the step of contacting said cells with a test compound suspected of promoting or inhibiting movement of said cells.

104. (Cancelled).

105. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 98, wherein said discrete location is circular.

106. (Withdrawn) A cell assay system comprising:

- a) a multiwell plate comprising masks for wells in said multiwell plate, wherein said masks provide a masked portion and unmasked portion in said wells, wherein said wells have a bottom surface;
- b) a cell seeding device insertable into at least one well of said multiwell plate, wherein said cell seeding device defines a predetermined area on said bottom surface of said at least one well, so that when cells are applied to said at least one well said cells are seeded in said predetermined area.

107. (Withdrawn) The system of Claim 106, further comprising an assay readout device.

108. (Withdrawn) The system of Claim 106, wherein said assay readout device is selected from the group consisting of colorimetric, fluorimetric, optical density, liquid crystal and light scattering readout devices.

109. (Withdrawn) The system of Claim 106, wherein said multiwell plate is selected from the group consisting of 6, 12, 24, 36, 96, 384, or 1536 well plates.

110. (Withdrawn) The system of Claim 106, wherein said cell seeding device comprises a substantially circular surface having therein an opening so that when said insert is positioned in said well the bottom surface of said well is exposed by said opening in said insert, said insert further comprising lift piece so that said insert can be lifted from said well.

111. (Withdrawn) A cell assay kit comprising:

- a) a multiwell plate comprising masks for wells in said multiwell plate, wherein said masks provide a masked portion and unmasked portion in said wells, wherein said wells have a bottom surface;
- b) a cell seeding device insertable into at least one well of said multiwell plate, wherein said cell seeding device defines a predetermined area on said

bottom surface of said at least one well, so that when cells are applied to said at least one well said cells are seeded in said predetermined area.

112. (Withdrawn) The kit of Claim 111, wherein said multiwell plate is selected from the group consisting of 6, 12, 24, 36, 96, 384, or 1536 well plates.

113. (Withdrawn) The kit of Claim 111, wherein said cell seeding device comprises a substantially circular surface having therein an opening so that when said insert is positioned in said well the bottom surface of said well is exposed by said opening in said insert, said insert further comprising lift piece so that said insert can be lifted from said well.

114-120. Cancelled.

121. (New) The method of Claim 98, wherein said wells are partially masked. Do we need to teach how it is employed? – which would necessitate a physical mask attached to the plate bottom and registering with the boundary of the discrete location? If not, I really like the broadness of this claim.